

Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 3 has been added to address the Examiner's concern that the features of Claim 35 were not shown in a figure. No new matter has been added. Support for Figure 3 can be found on page 4 (following ¶ [00010]), page 10 (¶[00018]) and in original claim 35. Figure 3 is attached to this response.

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were previously pending. Applicant has canceled claims 3, 8, 9, 33 and 34. Applicant has added new claim 36. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-7, 10-32, and 35-36 are currently pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 35 is allowed. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant believes that at least claims 9, 19 and 20 (as previously presented) were clearly allowable over the cited prior art. Applicant has herein amended claim 19 to be an independent claim, incorporating the basic limitations of previous independent claim 1. Further Applicant has herein amended independent claims 1, 21 and 30 to include one or more limitations from claims 9 or 19. Applicant believes that all of the current pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Specification & Drawings

Applicant has added new Figure 3 and amended the specification to address the Examiner's objection. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-18

As amended, claim 1 incorporates the limitations of claim 8 and claim 9 (both now canceled). Accordingly, claim 1 recites a projection system that projects a plurality of channels of invisible light signals onto a screen, and wherein "one or more receivers [are] configured to be selectively adjusted to receive and decode a selected subset of said plurality of channels of invisible light signals." This feature permits a user to, among various other applications, select one soundtrack to listen to from among several soundtracks that are projected. The concept of users selectively configuring the receivers to decode one of a plurality of channels of invisible light being transmitted was set forth in previous claim 9. The Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,739,875 to Toide, specifically col. 21, lines 16-20 of Toide. Applicant respectfully submits that Toide does not disclose or suggest receivers that are configured to be selectively adjusted to receive and decode a selected subset of a plurality of channels of invisible light signals. Toide simply makes no mention of such a feature.

For at least this reason, independent claims 1 and dependent claims 2-18 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 19-29, 36

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 in light of Toide and U.S. Patent No. 6,811,267 to Allen. 35 U.S.C. §103(c) states:

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f) and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

The Allen patent issued on November 2, 2004, whereas the pending application was filed on July 28, 2003. Accordingly, the Allen patent would qualify as §102(e)-type prior art. Further, both the Allen patent and the current pending application are assigned to the Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The invention of claim 19 of the pending application was subject to an obligation of assignment to the Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. at the time of invention. See, Declaration of Gregory J. May, attached hereto. Therefore, the Allen patent cannot be used to preclude patentability of the current pending application under §103.

Applicant has re-written claim 19 in independent form, incorporating the basic limitations of claim 1. Further, independent claim 21, as amended, and dependent claims 22-29 all include the substantive limitations of claim 19 relating to using a micromirror device to project both visible light images and invisible light signals.

For at least this reason, independent claims 19 and 21, and dependent claims 20 and 22-29 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 30-32

Claims 30-32, as amended, include the limitations of selecting a desired soundtrack from a plurality of available soundtracks and decoding a subset of the invisible light signals corresponding to the desired soundtrack. As described in connection with claims 1-18, this feature simply is not disclosed or suggested in Toide. For at least this reason, claims 30-32 are allowable over the cited prior art.

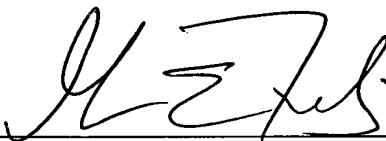
CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application is in condition for allowance and such action towards these ends is respectfully requested.

Any fees associated with the filing of this paper should be identified in any accompanying transmittal. Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200308970-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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